Date	Petrol Rs./Ltr.	Diesel Rs../Ltr.
21.06.06 (reduction in VAT rate)	46.85	32.25
30.11.06	44.85	31.25
16.02.07	42.85	30.25
06.06.07 (tax rebate on VAT for Petrol and Diesel withdrawn)	43.52	30.48
08.02.08 (pollution cess in Delhi)	—	30.76
15.02.08	45.52	31.76

(c) The current prices of petrol and diesel in South Asian countries are given in the statement.

Statement

Details of Prices of Petrol and Diesel in South Asian countries

(Indian Rs/Ltr.)

Product	India Delhi	Pakistan	Bangladesh	Srilanka	Thailand (Bangkok)	Phillipines
Prices As on:	4-Mar-08	5-Feb-08	2-Feb-08	1-Feb-8	4-Mar-08	26-Feb-08
Petrol	45.52	33.81	37.39	46.55	40.89	43.15
Diesel	31.76	23.73	23.00	29.32	37.68	36.26

Source. Prices of Pakistan, Bangladesh & Srilanka as provided by IOC-IT.

Prices of Thailand from www.eppo.go.th. Petrol prices are for ULG 91R:UNL, Diesel prices are for H-Diesel (0.035%S).

Prices of Phillipines from www.doe.ph. Prices are average retail prices.

Exploration of coal bed methane in Gujarat

1190. SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI:
SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL:
SHRI KESHUBHAI S. PATEL:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ONGC has not taken concentrated steps to start the drilling activity in Coal Bed Methane (CBM) block awarded to Gujarat in 2004;

(b) whther, the State Government of Gujarat has submitted a proposal to induct a third partner for exploration of CBM block in order to get the production started at the earliest;

(c) whether any decision has been taken in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) The exploration activities in the CBM Block BS (3)-CBM-2003/2 were initiated by ONGC after obtaining licence for the acreage on10.9.2004. 8 Core holes and 2 Test Well locations were firmed up. A smaller rig was planned for drilling core holes to reduce costs. An experienced Company, namely, M/s.MECL was engaged by ONGC for initial drilling.Due to technical problems, they failed to achieve the target. In place of M/s. MECL, M/s. Quipo, a mobile drilling rig was hired by ONGC on 8.8.2006. ONGC has completed drilling activities in the Block by 16.8.2007 within the extended period of contract.

(b) to (e) On 14th June, 2006,Principal Secretary, Energy & petrochemical Department,Goverment of Gujarat had requested for induction of third partner to expedite exploration activity and complete the minimum work programme (MWP) well in time. However, ONGC had communicated to Government of Gujarat that they have hired a mobile drilling rig to complete the ONGC has also completed the MWP within the extended time.

Use of transport gas cylinders

†1191. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has suggested/directed all the companies supplying cooking gas in the country to use cylinders;

(b) if so, the reaction of the gas producing companies thereto; and

(c) by when the supply of transparent gas cylinders to the consumers will be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) Government has conveyed "in principle" approved to the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) for expanding the product line by way of introduction of composite cyclinders for marketing domestic LPG, subject to there being no subsidy element in the LPG to be marketed through these composite cylinders. To start with, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (ICO) along with Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) intend to import some cylinders and do test marketing in selected cities.

Adulteration in fuel

1192. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Environmental Pollution Control Authority has directed Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) to carry out an investigation on fuel adulteration;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the CSE;

(c) whether the oil companies/Government have failed to check the rising fuel adulteration cases; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.